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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 29th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 16 July 1992, at 3 p.m.

<u>President:</u>	Mr. GUERRERO (Vice-President)	(Philippines)
<u>later:</u>	Mr. AMAZIANE (Vice-President)	(Morocco)
<u>later:</u>	Mr. GUERRERO (Vice-President)	(Philippines)

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Guerrero (Philippines),
Vice-President, took the Chair

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Ms. JANJUA (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, supported by Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom), said that more time was required to examine the recommendations on acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and on poverty alleviation, circulated that morning by the Bureau, and she therefore requested postponement of the scheduled consultations on those recommendations.

Mr. SETH (India) said that the proposed informal consultations on the coordination segment were, presumably, intended to lead to consensus recommendations. However, since the recommendations resulting from the discussions in the coordination segment merely reflected the views of the President or the Bureau, as he saw it, there was no scope for consultations or negotiations on those recommendations.

The PRESIDENT said that General Assembly resolution 45/264 called for a summary by the President of the high-level segment but said nothing about a document on the coordination segment, calling merely for recommendations resulting from its discussions. Those recommendations had been prepared on the subjects of AIDS and poverty alleviation; it was now up to the members to decide on the appropriate modality for their presentation to the General Assembly. That was the purpose of the scheduled informal consultations.

Mr. SETH (India) said that, in his interpretation, the intention of resolution 45/264 was for the President to prepare views, on his own authority, on the outcome of discussions in the coordination segment, just as he had for the high-level segment.

The PRESIDENT said that Economic and Social Council decision 1992/217 stated that the coordination segment would conclude with recommendations to the organizations of the United Nations system related to the two themes under discussion, without stipulating the form those recommendations should take. The United Kingdom had proposed that the Bureau, with the help of the secretariat of the Economic and Social Council, should formulate recommendations; that had been done. It was not for the Bureau, however, to determine whether or not those recommendations should be negotiated or whether they should lead to suggestions for new action not foreseen in resolution 45/264.

Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) said that the recommendations circulated by the Bureau were of great value and that time should be given to their study. If the coordination segment was to have been worth while, it was essential that the Council should reach consensus on the questions of AIDS and poverty alleviation; he therefore believed that members should endeavour to reach consensus recommendations on the basis of the recommendations formulated by the Bureau.

Mr. JOMAA (Observer for Tunisia) said that his delegation had taken an active part in the drafting of resolution 45/264 and it fully endorsed the views put forward by the representative of India, namely, that recommendations should be formulated on the basis of the discussions and transmitted, without any negotiation, in the report of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly. It was not the duty of the Council to negotiate those recommendations, but merely to determine whether or not they accurately reflected the views expressed during the coordination segment. When resolution 45/264 had been drafted, there had been strong opposition to the idea that the recommendations should be negotiated: they were to be made purely on the basis of a summary of the debate.

Ms. JANJUA (Pakistan) said that the discussion of the recommendations should be postponed until the Group of 77 had discussed the paper. It would be best to resume the discussion of operational activities and defer taking a decision on the recommendations until the following week.

Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco) stressed the need to discuss the results of the coordination segment to avoid giving contradictory recommendations. Otherwise it would be said that the coordination segment was unable to make recommendations to the United Nations system because of a lack of consensus. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (E/1992/28, 29, 64; A/47/235-E/1992/69 and Add.1 and 2, A/47/264-E/1992/71, 73 and 98; E/1992/L.23 and L.28)

Mr. KABIR (Bangladesh) said that the United Nations system had an important role to play in international cooperation to revitalize development in the 1990s. In the current international environment, there was a danger that the least developed countries might become marginalized. The need to increase resources for operational activities, therefore, could not be overemphasized. His country urged donors to increase their contributions for operational activities, preferably on a multi-year basis, and called for implementation of the Programme of Action for the 1990s for the Least Developed Countries on an urgent basis.

In implementing General Assembly resolution 44/211, procedures pertaining to programme and project formulation, design, appraisal, monitoring and evaluation must be simplified and harmonized. The divergent procedures followed by various agencies placed additional burdens on Governments and strained the system. Despite repeated requests for simplified procedures and structures, not much had been achieved. There was also a need for more capacity-building in developing countries and greater utilization of existing national capacities with increased use of national experts and professionals.

Decentralization and accountability would ensure effective utilization of resources and make the system more responsive to the needs of the countries concerned. Although some agencies had taken positive steps in that regard, in a number of cases decentralization had been accompanied by cumbersome procedures. Authority must be delegated to the field level in an environment of trust between headquarters and field offices. The role of resident coordinators should be enhanced and resident coordinators should be chosen from within the system and have proven development experience and leadership qualities. In that connection, integrated development programmes must be

(Mr. Kabir, Bangladesh)

flexible enough to respond to the specific needs of each country. The developing countries had the primary responsibility for the formulation and implementation of their development plans, and self-reliance was the objective of United Nations assistance. The resident coordinator could also coordinate United Nations humanitarian assistance but should maintain his political neutrality.

Reform measures should uphold the principles of universality, neutrality, non-conditionality and respect for the sovereignty of States and promote democratic decision-making and transparency. Although Bangladesh welcomed measures to ensure increased resource flows for operational activities on a stable and predictable basis, it felt that that should not put an additional burden on developing countries. Lastly, there was a need to address specific issues such as increased resource flows to the developing countries, equitable trading systems, increased market access, solution of the debt problem and the transfer of technology.

Ms. WYRSCH (Observer for Switzerland) said that operational activities involved five main functions: helping Governments define national development priorities and establish programme frameworks, improving management of the development process and aid coordination, promoting regional cooperation, providing developing countries with the expertise of the specialized agencies and institutions, and elaborating innovative approaches for international development cooperation. In order to fulfil those functions, the United Nations system had a considerable analytical and technical capacity which should be further enhanced.

There was a need for a new form of cooperation between the partners in development. Her delegation supported the approaches based on coherent assistance "packages" to be defined by each recipient country on the basis of its specific needs. In that connection, the United Nations system must have stable and predictable financial resources in order to carry out its functions to the satisfaction of both recipient and donor countries. It was gratifying to note that greater use was being made of such coordination mechanisms as consultative groups and round tables.

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(Ms. Wyrach, Observer, Switzerland)

In order to enhance the cohesiveness of operational activities, the Council should define the responsibilities of the resident coordinators and the criteria used in selecting them and establish lines of communication between them and the Secretariat. The various organizations, for their part, should focus on the areas in which they had comparative advantages and expand their impact assessments in order to draw the necessary lessons for future development activities. Solutions must be found to the urgent questions relating to intergovernmental management and relations between the secretariats and executive bodies of those institutions. In that connection, Switzerland supported the views and conclusions set forth in the Nordic United Nations project.

With regard to overall management of the system, the Department of Economic and Social Development should be the management and supervisory body for the entire United Nations development system, and the Administrative Committee on Coordination should play a crucial role in the area of inter-agency coordination; its responsibilities should be clearly defined. The work done by the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions, particularly concerning the guidelines drawn up for the representatives of the various agencies in the field and training initiatives, was encouraging and should continue. Switzerland attached great importance to the work of the open-ended working group to follow-up the discussion of the system-wide reform and would participate actively in its activities.

The PRESIDENT informed the Council that the resident coordinator in Pakistan was available to talk to the Council about his activities in the field. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to hear the resident coordinator.

It was so decided.

Mr. von SPONECK (Resident Coordinator in Pakistan) said that at the current time 19 United Nations organizations and programmes, including IMF and the World Bank, were represented at different levels in Pakistan. In the past four years, 14 development agencies had begun to cooperate and implement joint programmes. As the resident coordinator, his task was to facilitate and promote inter-agency communication and activities. In 1988 a decision had

(Mr. von Sponeck)

been taken at a meeting of all the heads of agencies to conduct monthly meetings focusing on such substantive issues as women in development, the national conservation strategy, drugs and rural development. Through such regular exchanges of information, the heads of agencies had become well acquainted.

A decision had then been taken to analyse the capacity of the individual agencies to implement programmes relating to women in development and evaluate the success of such activities. The resulting study had been published and was still being used. Subsequently, the group had identified three major areas of concern to the Government: population growth, basic education and rural income and employment. Work in those areas had led to a package of recommendations on projects being redesigned to incorporate those concerns into development activities. During that process, a number of other projects involving fewer agencies had been designed and implemented. The ideas for such collaboration had come easily, owing to the regularity of the agency meetings. A consultant had been hired to review the reports on the three issues, with a view to the joint financing and implementation of an operational programme.

In addition, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP were elaborating distinct country programmes which would be analysed together and linked to ensure that the agencies were not working at cross purposes.

Various departments of the Pakistan Government had been involved throughout the process and viewed the agencies as a team. He hoped that the method of work he had described could be formalized so that similar cooperative efforts could be carried out by the agencies in other countries.

Mr. RAKOTONAIVO (Madagascar) emphasized the importance which his delegation attached to the operational activities of the United Nations system. It would express its views on the specific options presented in document E/1992/64 in the new ad hoc working group.

The reforms envisaged must respect the fundamental principles of neutrality, non-conditionality, universality, the voluntary nature of contributions, the sovereignty of recipient countries with respect to their goals and priorities and democratic decision-making.

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(Mr. Rakotonaivo, Madagascar)

Steps must be taken to enhance the cohesiveness and efficacy of the operational activities of the system. Clear policy guidelines must be adopted by consensus in the General Assembly and the Council, both of which should play an enhanced role. Their mandates must therefore be clearly delineated on the basis of Article 13, paragraph 1.b, Article 63, paragraph 2, and Article 64, paragraph 1, of the Charter, in order to avoid overlapping and duplication. It was not necessary to establish a new policy-making body.

There should be a clear separation between the policy guideline function and the management of operational activities. Technical efficacy and political participation were key factors to be borne in mind in the exercise of those functions. The decision-making machinery should be guided by the fundamental principles to which he had referred.

An integrated approach to development was essential, and required that the established rules be applied to all the agencies. The full mobilization of the sectoral capabilities and institutional infrastructure of the system was also essential, in the interest of ensuring the optimum use of resources. The division of labour between the United Nations system and the specialized agencies should be improved. The same principles should govern reforms needed at the field level, where further decentralization of management responsibilities would enhance the impact of operational activities.

His delegation welcomed the fact that the reforms under way focused on bringing recipient countries more fully into the planning and implementation process. He underscored the importance of strengthening national capacity at all stages of project development, training national cadres and helping recipient countries develop a programme approach. His delegation also welcomed the new emphasis, in project evaluation, on assessing the impact and results of activities. He drew attention to various ways in which his country cooperated with the United Nations system and underscored the importance of strengthening coordination at the national level between the organizations of the system, on the one hand, and international and governmental bodies, on the other hand.

It was generally recognized that the financial crisis facing the institutions responsible for operational activities was primarily the result

(Mr. Rakotonaivo, Madagascar)

of a lack of support from certain key donor countries. However, the developing countries needed increased financial aid more than ever now, in view of their serious economic plight and the human and social cost of the economic and political reforms they had undertaken. The proposal for a financing mechanism based on a system of negotiated pledges would not resolve the resource shortage. The success of the operational activities of the United Nations system would depend above all on the political and financial commitment of the major donor countries, and on the participation of recipient countries in accordance with their ability to pay.

Mr. BAHADIAN (Brazil) said that there undeniably was room for improvement in the governance and financing of the operational activities of the United Nations system. Efforts to bring about that improvement should be pursued within the broader context of the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. His delegation welcomed the many constructive proposals which had emerged during the high-level segment of the Council's deliberations and looked forward to participating actively in the ad hoc open-ended working group established to review those proposals. As discussions of reform options proceeded, the operational activities of the United Nations must preserve their essential characteristics of universality, neutrality, non-conditionality, respect for national priorities and democratic participation in the decision-making process.

His delegation regretted that the Secretariat had not been in a position to present a report on the comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities as requested in General Assembly resolution 46/219. He hoped that the report would be available sufficiently in advance to permit a detailed analysis by all delegations and a wide-ranging and fruitful discussion in the General Assembly.

The impact of the current global economic situation was more harshly felt, internationally, in inverse proportion to the level of development and, nationally, in direct proportion to the vulnerability of the diverse groups within society. It was important to acknowledge that strengthening cooperation to alleviate the plight of the neediest groups within countries

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(Mr. Bahadian, Brazil)

and of the neediest countries within the international community was not merely an act of solidarity, but one of collective collaboration for the benefit of all, since it would also contribute to the easing of global tensions.

Mr. HADID (Algeria) said that the experience gained thus far in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/211 and the new ideas and proposals set forth by the Secretary-General and Member States on the enhancement of the operational activities of the United Nations system augured well for a fruitful discussion of the relevant issues. The valuable initiative of the Nordic countries had already found expression in General Assembly resolution 46/182 on the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance. The greater cohesiveness and reforms recommended by the Nordic project could be achieved through the judicious use of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. His delegation endorsed the general outlines of the Nordic proposals to reform the structure of the executive bodies of the funds and programmes of the system, provided that weighted voting was not introduced into the decision-making process. He also cautioned that the proposed new methods for financing operational activities risked placing an additional burden on the developing countries.

During the current debate attention should focus on the adequacy of political and financial support for operational activities, bearing in mind the technical assistance requirements of the developing countries both in qualitative and quantitative terms. Among the reforms necessary to consolidate such support were an increase in the system's coordination capacity, the introduction of steps to ensure greater programme integration and complementarity, the harmonization of programming cycles and procedures, greater decentralization, increased attention to strengthening national capacity and the increased use of technical cooperation among developing countries for project implementation.

The Council and the General Assembly should strengthen the mandate of the newly established Department of Economic and Social Development with respect to coordination. His delegation supported the concept of establishing a unified United Nations presence in each recipient country under the direction

(Mr. Hadid, Algeria)

of a resident coordinator who would have full authority for coordination in the field. It was also important to ensure the harmonization of the programming cycles of the various funding agencies, which in turn also should simplify their internal procedures, the complexity and diversity of which often hampered efforts of the developing countries to coordinate inputs from the United Nations system.

His delegation appreciated the substantial contribution already made by United Nations operational activities for development, and also felt that attention should be devoted to exploring as yet untapped opportunities. It was also important to explore ways to ensure that technical assistance of the United Nations system produced tangible results.

The discussion of the reform process should proceed in accordance with the principles of neutrality, universality and multilateralism. His delegation looked forward to contributing to the process in the new ad hoc working group.

Mr. GONZALEZ (Chile) said that the consultants' report (E/1992/64, annex) made it clear that the problems affecting the operational activities of the United Nations system required, inter alia, greater coordination of policy guidance, more clear-cut definitions of areas of responsibility and the rationalization of the agendas of the various bodies concerned. The proposal calling for the consolidation of various basic resolutions and evolving mandates into more formal statutes for subsidiary funds, programmes and bodies and the suggestion that policy-making functions should be exercised at the highest level definitely should be adopted.

His delegation shared the concern expressed in the report regarding the inadequate use of existing resources. To rectify the problem, he agreed that changes were needed in the existing system of governance. The functions of the proposed International Development Council could be assumed by the revitalized Economic and Social Council. The proposal to establish smaller executive bodies merited careful consideration. It was essential to ensure the effective participation of all interested parties, and the principles of universality, transparency, full representation and non-conditionality should guide any discussion on reform. Furthermore, operational activities must be

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(Mr. Gonzalez, Chile)

coordinated with local governments, bearing in mind the national development priorities of the recipient country.

Two basic objectives must be borne in mind when considering the reform of the system of financing. Firstly, budgetary resources must remain stable and, secondly, the level of resources for development assistance must be increased. Any pledge by developing countries of budgetary resources must be accompanied by counterpart contributions from donor countries. Accordingly, the voluntary contributions referred to in the Nordic proposal should be considered supplementary contributions; they should remain at current levels, and should in no case fall below 0.7 per cent of GNP of the donor countries. The scale for the proposed assessed contributions must be designed in such a way that the developing countries received more than they contributed. Under the proposed system of negotiated pledges, the share contributed by the developing countries could in fact increase if counterpart funds also were provided, thereby generating the additional resources being sought.

Lastly, he underscored the importance which his delegation attached to the role of resident coordinators in ensuring the coordination, efficiency and implementation of operational activities.

Mr. RAICHEV (Bulgaria) said that technical cooperation was important in order to find concrete solutions to the unprecedented social, economic and ecological problems facing mankind. In that connection, it was particularly important to scrutinize and adjust, as necessary, the United Nations role in operational activities. UNDP had the potential to respond to the complex changes taking place in the field of social and economic development. Bulgaria appreciated the Programme's efforts to define new concepts for human-centred development and seek new ways to ensure effective technical cooperation responding to the needs of Member States. Guided by the principles of universality and non-conditionality, UNDP would be able to meet the requirements set forth in General Assembly resolution 44/211.

There was a need to take more action-oriented decisions on ways to enhance the efficiency of United Nations operational activities and coordinate actions taken under other multilateral and bilateral arrangements. His delegation agreed that it was necessary to ensure further incorporation of

(Mr. Raichev, Bulgaria)

technical cooperation activities in national development efforts and focus attention on strengthening national capacities for planning, designing, implementing and evaluating technical cooperation programmes and activities. At the same time, the modalities for national execution should not preclude the utilization of the experience and expertise of the specialized agencies and regional commissions. His delegation was concerned that the complexity of the new support costs arrangements might impose a substantial administrative burden on recipient Governments and felt that such arrangements should be simplified.

Recent social and economic changes necessitated greater flexibility in the programming of technical cooperation and Bulgaria therefore supported the programme approach. At the same time, the traditional form of cooperation based on specific projects should still be applied where appropriate and UNDP should continue to provide funding for regional projects whose benefits had been demonstrated.

Bulgaria favoured the further decentralization of the capacities and authorities of the United Nations system and the strengthening of UNDP field representation. In addition, there should be stronger coordination between UNDP, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other aid institutions and funds.

Bulgaria firmly supported the provisions of General Assembly resolution 44/211, and called for a permanent focus on the substantial issues of human resource development, environmental protection, participation in development, transfer of technology, management development, women in development and technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC), as those issues constituted the core of the development process.

His delegation noted with appreciation the support given to the countries in economic transition and stressed the importance of the principle of universality.

Finally, he expressed support for the re-establishment of an operational regional office of UNDP in Europe, which would considerably enhance the efficiency and management of its programmes in that area.

Mr. Amaziane (Morocco), Vice-President, took the Chair.

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Mr. AGUILAR HECHT (Observer for Guatemala) said that Guatemala accorded great importance to the operational activities of the United Nations system, and supported everything that had been said on the topic by the Chairman of the Group of 77. However, decisions on reform or adjustment of the operational activities system must be approached with caution and the dialogue between recipients and donors must be strengthened. The arduous negotiations of past General Assemblies had given meagre results, and to the extent that the system failed to meet its goal of fostering economic growth and social development, international peace and security would be imperilled.

The proposal to abolish the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly was for the moment not acceptable to his delegation, since there was as yet no other open forum for debate on the issues assigned to those Committees. However, the creation of new bodies to study operational activities could be debated, taking into account the concerns of the developing countries for whose benefit those activities had been conceived. Clearly, duplication of effort should be avoided through improved coordination, and close cooperation ensured in order to make the best use of the limited financial resources available.

His delegation was sympathetic to the concept of an integrated programme approach but felt that recipient countries should continue to have access to information on agency projects that could benefit them. The idea regarding United Nations ambassadors was less than clear; the resident coordinator system had thus far worked reasonably well, though refinements were needed. The principles that had always governed operational activities should be maintained.

In spite of the achievements of operational activities, poverty was on the rise in developing countries; structural adjustment programmes had been hard to implement, and the incalculable social cost had imperilled those countries' efforts at democratization. The situation was precarious, and investment was needed to propel development, particularly in the form of educational systems that would lead to advancement for vulnerable and marginal groups.

(Mr. Aguilar Hecht, Observer, Guatemala)

The technical cooperation for development provided by the United Nations was needed and must continue. National execution, which made use of national capacity and could stimulate national management of plans and projects, should continue to be the preferred mode of development. Resolution 44/211 needed to be implemented while the system's coherence and coordination were improved.

Mr. Guerrero (Philippines), Vice-President, resumed the Chair.

Mr. RADE (Netherlands) asked how many States of the former Soviet Union were currently negotiating memoranda of understanding with UNDP on the opening of United Nations offices; how many resident representatives or other United Nations personnel had been appointed, and in how many countries they would operate; what were the chances of creating UNDP regional offices; and what financial support there was for a unified United Nations presence in the newly independent States; whether the issue had been discussed in the context of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC); and whether other agencies were prepared to make a financial contribution to such a unified presence in Member States.

Mr. GORDON-SOMERS (United Nations Development Programme) said that one agreement had been signed, with Belarus, and that another, with Armenia, was in the drafting stage.

Some resident representatives had been nominated through ACC machinery. No infrastructure or UNDP office was being created in the countries involved, but that there might be just one individual, working in a hotel, assigned to familiarize the host Government with the workings of UNDP. However, even that modest presence had already awoken some interest, and more dialogue would surely follow. The possibility of regional service centres was still under consideration, though no decision had been made; it was thought that such centres might be more cost-effective.

Replying to a question by the representative of Japan at a previous meeting, he said that there were offices in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. There had been discussions with the Secretary-General regarding the other agencies possible contributions from those six countries.

Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) asked what steps had been taken to enhance the quality of training at the field level and to promote inter-agency coordination of training and what action the United Nations funds and agencies, especially those without decentralization mechanisms, were taking to delegate decision-making to country level. He would be glad to have the answers in writing.

Mr. DEMONGEOT (United States of America) requested clarification of the comment made by the representative of WHO at the previous meeting to the effect that WHO's constitutional mandate required it to locate its field staff within the respective ministries of health, and asked why the WHO mandate differed in that regard from those of FAO, UNESCO and so on.

Noting that WHO regional bureau advisers were often retired officials of the host Government, he said that there appeared to be some risk of confusion. In the programme approach it was important for there to be a dialogue between the United Nations system and the Government of the country involved. However, if the two were overly integrated "dialogue" was impossible.

Similarly with capacity-building, coordination efforts by the host Government should not be confused with those carried out by the resident representatives. Rather, the United Nations presence should help the host Government carry out its own planning.

With respect to the financial constraints that FAO had said limited its expansion at country level, agencies should, before requesting additional funding, look at possible improvements in their field representation. The ILO approach of trying to set up subregional interdisciplinary teams deserved consideration, as it might improve cost-effectiveness.

Finally, he commended ILO on its resolve to focus its technical assistance in areas where it held a comparative advantage, and hoped the other specialized agencies would follow suit.

Ms. JANJUA (Pakistan) wondered to what extent the United Nations system had been able to understand and implement the previous year's agency support cost successor arrangements, which were notably complex, and whether agencies were satisfied with the content of the decision.

Mr. SORENSEN (International Labour Organisation) said, with respect to the broader training aspects of resolution 44/211, and particularly the enhancement of coordination arrangements at the field level, the agencies had taken various initiatives on their own to train their own staff in the new arrangements. A programme for the training of trainers was under development for UNDP and agency staff and selected government officials.

Mr. WATT (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that more training was being done than was generally supposed. FAO had training programmes for national execution and for national project directors. With respect to decentralization and financial constraint, he thought everything possible should be done to cut costs and see to it that assistance was given where it was most needed.

The various agencies had been intimately involved for several years in the decisions on support costs and felt that they were propelling the system in the right direction; unfortunately, the arrangement was not yet working.

Mr. DEANE (World Health Organization), replying to the question put by the representative of the United States, said that the constitutional mandate of his organization was to assist the national health authorities, and that it was at the request of the host Governments, that a number of employees were based at the ministries of health. Since WHO attempted to use national capacity whenever possible, a certain number of its staff were retirees from the national Governments.

Who had no difficulty with the multisectoral approach. He noted that the Consultative Committee on Operational Activities was in the midst of an extensive training programme to develop national capacity for identification of development programmes.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.